

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 06580 01 OF 02 101901Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03
ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11 TRSE-00
HA-05 NSC-05 /083 W
-----072922 101916Z /64

P R 101733Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1572
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
COMSIXTHFLT
DIA
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
SHAPEUSNR
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY
USDOCOSOUTH
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AFOSI DIST 65 ROME IT/IVOA
HG AFOSI WASHDC/IVOAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 6580

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJ: MORO KIDNAPPING -- DIFFERENCES EMERGE WITH MORO FAMILY

SUMMARY: THE MORO KIDNAPPING APPEARS TO HAVE ENTERED A
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PAGE 02 ROME 06580 01 OF 02 101901Z

PARTICULARLY TURBULENT AND CONFUSING PHASE IN WHICH DEEP
DIVISIONS HAVE EMERGED BETWEEN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT (DC)
PARTY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS AND THE MORO FAMILY. DC
LEADERS HAVE EVIDENTLY RESISTED STRONG PRESSURES FROM
THE FAMILY TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE RED BRIGADES, A FACTOR
WHICH APPARENTLY INDUCED MRS. MORO TO MAKE A DRAMATIC
PUBLIC APPEAL ON APRIL 7 IN A MILAN NEWSPAPER FOR A

"SIGN" FROM HER HUSBAND. TWENTY-FOUR HOURS LATER, A NEW LETTER FROM MORO TO THE FAMILY (THE CONTENTS OF WHICH ARE NOT PUBLICLY KNOWN) WAS APPARENTLY INTERCEPTED BY POLICE AUTHORITIES BEFORE BEING DELIVERED TO MRS. MORO. THE DECISION TO INTERCEPT DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE RED BRIGADES AND THE FAMILY HAS REPORTEDLY FURTHER SERIOUSLY DETERIORATED RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE FAMILY, CLOSE PARTY COLLEAGUES OF MORO, AND THE INVESTIGATING AUTHORITIES. THE WEEKEND EXPERIENCED A FLURRY OF HIGH-LEVEL ACTIVITY, INCLUDING SEVERAL EMERGENCY MEETINGS OF GOVERNMENT AND PARTY LEADERS AND A "SECRET" MEETING IN SWITZERLAND OF THE INTERIOR MINISTERS OF ITALY, FRG, SWITZERLAND, AND AUSTRIA. ALTHOUGH UNDER HEAVY PRESSURES, THE DC AND GOVERNMENT APPEAR TO BE HOLDING FORM AGAINST PARTICIPATION IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS WITH MORO'S TERRORIST CAPTORS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE MORO CASE SEEMS TO HAVE ENTERED A PHASE OF GREAT TENSION AND FRENETIC ACTIVITY. ALTHOUGH FEW NEW FACTS HAVE APPEARED, THE STEPPED UP PACE OF HIGH-LEVEL EMERGENCY MEETINGS AND THE OBSCURE COMINGS AND GOINGS OF GOVERNMENT AND PARTY EMISSARIES HAS NOT ESCAPED THE ATTENTION OF THE PRESS. THIS HAS LED TO A PROLIFERATION OF RUMORS OF SECRET NEGOTIATIONS, TERRORIST DEMANDS FOR CASH AND GOLD, AND OF DEEP DIVISIONS AMONG PARTY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS DEALING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ROME 06580 01 OF 02 101901Z

WITH THE CASE. WHILE MUCH OF WHAT IS BEING REPORTED APPROACHES THE REALM OF FANTASY, THE ONE SIGNIFICANT NEW FACTOR THAT HAS EMERGED OPENLY IN RECENT DAYS IS THE DEEP AND BITTER DIVISION THAT HAS DEVELOPED BETWEEN THE MORO FAMILY AND THE DC AND THE GOVERNMENT OVER THE ISSUE OF CONTACTS WITH THE TERRORISTS.

2. FOR SOME TIME, THE MORO FAMILY HAS APPARENTLY BEEN HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE STEADFAST POSITION TAKEN BY THE DC WHICH RULES OUT ANY PARTY INVOLVEMENT IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE RED BRIGADE TERRORISTS. THE FAMILY IS SAID TO BELIEVE THAT MORO'S CLOSE ASSOCIATES IN THE PARTY (ZACCAGNINI IN PARTICULAR) HAVE SENTENCED MORO TO DEATH BY REFUSING TO HEED HIS PLEA TO NEGOTIATE HIS RELEASE. THIS UNYIELDING ATTITUDE HAS REPORTEDLY PUT THE "MOROTEI" UNDER INTENSE PRESSURES, CULMINATING IN THE DECISION TO SEND ZACCAGNINI PERSONALLY TO SEE MRS. MORO ON APRIL 5. BY ALL ACCOUNTS, THE MEETING WAS HIGHLY EMOTIONAL AND TENSE. WITH ZACCAGNINI UNABLE TO CONVINCE MRS. MORO THAT THE DC COULD NOT NEGOTIATE WITH THE TERRORISTS, THE BREAK BETWEEN THE DC AND THE FAMILY WAS SAID TO BE ALL BUT COMPLETE.

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PAGE 01 ROME 06580 02 OF 02 101853Z
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 ROME 6580

3. IN AN APPARENT REACTION TO THE DC'S RESISTANCE,
ON APRIL 7 MRS. MORO ARANGED TO HAVE PUBLISHED IN
THE MILAN DAILY, "IL GIORNO", AN EMOTIAONAL MESSAGE
ADDRESSED TO HER HUSBAND IN WHICH SHE ASKED FOR A "SIGN"
THAT COULD GIVE THE FAMILY HOPE FOR HIS SAFE RETURN. A
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PAGE 02 ROME 06580 02 OF 02 101853Z

RESPONSE WAS NOT LONG IN COMING. ALTHOUGH THE EXISTENCE OF
A NEW MORO LETTER TO THE FAMILY HAS NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY

CONFIRMED, A THREE-PAGE HANDWRITTEN LETTER DESCRIBED AS "TRAGIC" IN TONE AND ALMOST FRANTIC IN CONTENT WAS DISCOVERED IN ROME ON APRIL 8 AS A RESULT OF A TELEPHONE CALL TO MORO'S PRIVATE SECRETARY, NICOLA RANA. THE LETTER ITSELF WAS REPORTEDLY INTERCEPTED BY POLICE AUTHORITIES AND ALLEGEDLY THE SUBJECT OF A HASTILY CONVENED MEETING AT THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR. SOME THREE HOURS LATER, INTERIOR UNDERSECRETARY LETTIERI VISITED THE MORO HOME, PRESUMABLY TO DELIVER THE LETTER.

4. THE DECISION OF THE AUTHORITIES TO INTERCEPT DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN MORO'S CAPTORS AND THE FAMILY HAS APPARENTLY FURTHER STRAINED RELATIONS WITH THE FAMILY. ACCORDING TO ONE EVIDENTLY WELL-INFORMED PRESS ACCOUNT, THE FAMILY'S REACTION TO LETTIERI WAS ALMOST AGGRESSIVE. THERE IS SPECULATION THAT SINCE THE DC HAS REMAINED STEADFAST IN REFUSING TO NEGOTIATE, THE FAMILY MAY BE SEEKING THE HELP OF A "PRESTIGIOUS CITIZEN" TO ESTABLISH A CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE RED BRIGADES. SUCH A COURSE WOULD NOT BE RULED OUT BY THE DC'S APRIL 8 STATEMENT EXPRESSING COMPREHENSION AND SYMPATHY FOR THE MORO FAMILY. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE NEED TO RESPECT THE CONSTITUTION AND SAFEGUARD THE PREROGATIVES OF THE STATE, THE DC SAID, "NO PATH, NO POSSIBILITY OF REUNITING MORO PARTICULARLY TO HIS DEAR ONES SHOULD REMAIN UNEXPLORED."

5. THE WEEKEND DEVELOPMENTS WERE UNDOUBTEDLY THE SUBJECT OF LATE NIGHT EMERGENCY MEETINGS ON APRIL 8 AND 9 OF HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT AND PARTY LEADERS, INCLUDING ADREOTTI. WHILE THESE MEETINGS HAVE FED THE RUMOR MILL, THE PARTICIPANTS HAVE REFRAINED FROM ANY COMMENT. IN ADDITION TO THIS FLURRY OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ROME 06580 02 OF 02 101853Z

ACTIVITY, THE PRESS UNCOVERED INTERIOR MINISTER COSSIGA'S "SECRET" PARTICIPATION IN A MEETING ON APRIL 8 WITH HIS GERMAN, AUSTRIAN AND SWISS COUNTERPARTS AT AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION NEAR GENEVA. REPORTEDLY SCHEDULED FOR SOME TIME AND NOT RELATED TO THE LATEST MORO LETTER, AN OFFICIAL DECLARATION RELEASED IN BERN ON APRIL 9 STATES THAT THE MINISTERS DISCUSSED WAYS TO TIGHTEN FRONTIER CONTROLS OF THE FOUR STATES AGAINST TERRORIST OPERATIONS.

6. DESPITE THE HIGHLY CHARGED ATMOSPHERE AND OBVIOUS TENSIONS, THE DC APPEARS TO HAVE REMAINED UNITED IN ITS POSITION OF NO NEGOTIATIONS. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES IN THE ATTITUDES OF THE OTHER PARTIES ON THE HANDLING OF THE MORO CASE. THE DC IS KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE PCI (AND OTHER PARTIES) REPORTEDLY THROUGH INFORMAL CONTACTS BETWEEN DEPUTY SECRETARY GALLONI AND PCI SECRETARIAT MEMBER CHIAROMONTE. PCI LEADERS MET ON SUNDAY, APRIL 9,

APPARENTLY TO REVIEW THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, POLICIES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME06580
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780154-0323
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780474/aaaackys.tel
Line Count: 225
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 276720b3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3020075
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORO KIDNAPPING -- DIFFERENCES EMERGE WITH MORO FAMILY SUMMARY: THE MORO KIDNAPPING APPEARS TO HAVE ENTERED A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
TAGS: PINT, IT, (MORO, ALDO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/276720b3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014